

Tories divided as Nimrod looks doomed

By Robin Oakley and Peter Davenport

Ministers were bracing themselves last night for a week of furious parliamentary assault as the dispute over the choice of Britain's early warning radar system for the RAF developed into the most politically damaging defence row since Westland.

Meanwhile the Labour Party, mindful of the parallels with the Westland affair this time last year, is demanding that the Government goes for the British-made option, which virtually everyone in Parliament believes it will reject.

Mr James Prior, a former Cabinet Minister who is chairman of GEC, is claiming that the competition has been rigged against the British option, while the RAF is hitting back furiously, saying that he is impugning its honour.



James Prior: claims contest was rigged

Portfolio Gold - There is £24,000 to be won next Saturday in the Times Portfolio Gold weekly competition because there has been no winner for the past two weeks.

Mr Prior insists that Nimrod can meet all the RAF's performance targets, that it can be delivered sooner than the Boeing Awacs - since the airframes are already built - and that it will be cheaper.

Like others among the crowd of 15,500 somberly queuing to pass through the turnstiles they were there to pay tribute to the men, women and children who died and to celebrate victory over disaster.

Big boost planned for jobless scheme

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Ministers are planning a 25 per cent increase in the government scheme to persuade unemployed people to set up in business on their own.

The club's chairman, Mr Stafford Heginbotham, surveyed the ground, focused on the new stadium's expense of 5,500 orange and yellow seats safeguarded by close-circuit television and magnetic exit door-locking controls, a newly covered Kop and contained terracing.

Mr Prior said that Wednesday and then at the full Cabinet on Thursday. There is little sign of Nimrod support in the Cabinet.

He knew it was a glib phrase, he said, but made no excuse for describing the scene as a phoenix which had risen out of the ashes.

Sketch draws conflicting views

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

The purchase of a seventeenth century drawing by the British Museum has started a conflict among art experts over whether it is a valuable Rembrandt, or a lesser work by one of his pupils.

Nicolaes Maes, one of Rembrandt's most gifted pupils, while Mr Russell, himself a connoisseur of Old Master drawings, thinks it was drawn by another pupil, Ferdinand Bol.

Gulag poet tells of 120 days in punishment cell

From Christopher Walker, Kiev

Irina Ratushinskaya, considered by many Western critics to be one of the finest living Soviet poets, will soon leave here for Britain for medical treatment.

her release on the eve of the Reykjavik superpower summit, she was given permission at the weekend to travel to Britain with her husband, Igor, aged 33. She then plans to go to other Western countries, before attempting to return to Kiev.



Martin Fletcher (left), who lost four of his family in the stadium fire, cheering a Bradford goal, and a sad moment for Stuart McCall (right), Bradford's captain, at the inaugural ceremony yesterday.

Bradford phoenix rises from ashes

By Ian Smith Northern Correspondent

The protective arm guiding a pensioner through the crowds at the Valley Parade stadium at Bradford yesterday epitomized the courage which has conquered Europe's worst football disaster.

Pretoria releases abducted Swiss couple at border

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Two Swiss nationals who were seized by South African Government agents in Swaziland last Friday were returned to Swaziland yesterday.

Outbreak of violence kills 54 in Karachi

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Doctors at one hospital said 28 bodies had been brought there and there was no room for more injured.

The current spending on Aids treatment is about £2 million, but by 1988 that figure could rise to between £20 and £30 million, the report by Mr Nicholas Wells, associate director of the OHE, says.

Bokassa faces the evidence

Witnesses begin today to testify in the trial of the former self-proclaimed Emperor of the Central African Republic, Jean-Bedel Bokassa, on charges including mass murder and cannibalism Page 10

Bruno chance

Britain's Frank Bruno has been offered the chance to meet Mike Tyson for the world heavyweight championship if the American boxer becomes the undisputed champion Page 30

Liverpool third

Liverpool, the Football League champions, moved into third place in the first division as they defeated struggling Chelsea 3-0 in yesterday's televised match at Anfield Page 30

America II out

America II, the New York Yacht Club's \$20 million entry in the America's Cup, will not contest the final for the first time in 135 years after being beaten by New Zealand yesterday Page 28

Pay warning

Wages and salaries in manufacturing industry are rising far faster in Britain than major competitors, according to a management consultant Page 19

Japan's record

Japan is now third in the European car sales league after taking a record 12 per cent market share in the first nine months of this year Page 19

Tax cut plan

The Government is studying a plan to cut the basic tax rate rather than raise the general level of allowances Page 19

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, Births, deaths, marriages, Business, Court, Crosswords, Law Report, Leaders, Letters, Press, Sales, Science, Sport, Theatres, TV & Radio, Weather.

Advertisement for MHA (Metho-Homes) featuring a photo of an elderly couple and text: 'This Christmas have a heart for the elderly in need... share in the cost of caring...'

Becker's doorstep trip by Russian advertisement with a photo of David Miller.

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MAKES



From The Managing Director's Office

To All UK Company Directors

A lot of computer companies talk about compatibility or coexistence. At Wang, we go further. We call it integration.

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Managing Director

Wang UK Ltd. 1000 Great West Road, Brentford, Middlesex TW8 9HL. Tel: 01-568 9200.

WORK

IT

Maternity and the military

Women officers in the British army may bear neither arms nor children. Clare Dyer reports on a last bastion of sexual inequality

Inspecting the troops at a recent Sovereign's Parade at Sandhurst, the Queen asked why the new women officers were headed off into a corner while their male colleagues marched proudly round the parade square.



On parade: cadets of the Women's Royal Army Corps still face the prospect of compulsory retirement if they start a family

As the barriers began to topple, however, recruiting sergeants can no longer boast that it's a man's life in the army. Last April a 23-year-old major, Pepe Simpson, became the first woman to command a company of military police.

for two years the right to return to work after her baby's birth. But for a woman soldier pregnancy spells compulsory retirement. There are plenty of soldiers with children in the British Army, but only two of them are women, and both, the army stress, were highly exceptional cases.

£20,000. If she became pregnant now, she would have to leave with only a £5,000 resettlement grant.

to their jobs. "Sure, it causes problems," said an Australian army spokesman, "but no more than within the rest of the community."

wasn't eligible and I was given two weeks to move out."

'Male cadets can brandish rifles; women wave canes'

normally encourage you to go by the four-month stage," explained army public relations officer Captain Joanna Barry.

'American service-women have special maternity uniforms'

child, though one of her colleagues stayed on. "I left because I had already twice in my career had to whizz off for a few weeks at short notice," she said.

'American service-women have special maternity uniforms'

It was thanks to Jane Orr that service-women married to civilians won, in 1979, the right to live in married quarters.

Come on get happy - modern style

You can't describe a permanent state of misery as depression or even post-modernist angst any more. All it is now is out of style.



PENNY PERRICK

First of all it will be pop stars who will start looking radiant instead of their former sallow selves, then politicians, and finally the men who sit in glass cubicles collecting your Underground ticket.

ered to be very post-feminist, called "Objects of Desire" is currently on display in New York. It is all about women looking beautiful and very well-dressed.

WARNING ONLY 9 SHOPPING DAYS TO XMAS Need a few ideas? Don't panic. At Philips we've a whole range of kitchen appliances to suit everyone, from less than £10.

TALKBACK From Richenda Miers, Wyke, Wiltshire. When the Library Association draws up its 10-page leaflet for local councils, providing information about the powers and duties of public libraries...

WHO NEEDS THE TIMES CONCISE ATLAS OF THE WORLD? 1) Where in the World...? a) Where is Tombouctou? b) Where are the Maldiv Islands? c) Where is the Tunguska? d) Where is Embu? 2) Names to Remember a) What is the capital of Honduras? b) What is the longest river in Asia? c) What is the capital of Mauritius? d) What is the highest mountain in Africa?

Girl on top of a comic world

Actress Ruby Wax has progressed from stoats to rats

Bemused theatregoers may still remember Ruby Wax's first role, as a stoat in Toad Hall at the Sheffield Crucible Theatre. Never one to shun the limelight, she would, during the nightly trial scene, fling a stuffed pig to the floor, then attempt to revive it with mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and cardiac massage.

beat on becoming a secretary. But my hands shake; I'd type 'impossible' with four 'g's in it. The word 'physiotherapist' could cover an entire page." The promise of Girls on Top rescued Wax from the impending oblivion of a Hollywood typing pool, while she is clearly disappointed by some recent vicious reviews, the Wax/Saunders/French team still have the offer of a third series.



Hollywood's less: Ruby Wax

In real life, the only daughter of wealthy parents, she has in leaner times been known to make similar requests; lapsing into pure Scarlett O'Hara. Wax laments: "Ah depend on the kahndness of mah family..." Mr and Mrs Wax still have difficulty reconciling themselves to her comic versatility.

film scripts and there is talk of a West End musical featuring more rodents - this time, rats.

Wax's own life runs considerably more smoothly than that of the flat-sharing neurotic she portrays in her series. But like the girls in the series, she too has a problem with dating, men often find her humour intimidating.

She sailed through auditions to the Scottish Academy of Drama, and after winning a gold medal (and the unforgettable stoat stint) cornered the market in wenchiness with the RSC at Stratford.

Josephine Fairley Girls on Top is on ITV at 8.45pm Thursdays; the book is published by Grafton, price £4.95.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

PRIOR WARNING

For the chairman of GEC, Mr James Prior, to call for an independent inquiry into Whitehall's evaluation of the Nimrod/Awacs performance...

Defence waited for the other Nato powers to make up their minds - always a lengthy process when money is involved. It was only when the RAF said it could wait no longer...

technical evaluation has still come down in favour of the American system which lies behind his call for an independent inquiry. By all means let us have such an inquiry...

FROZEN ASSETS

Seventy-five years ago yesterday, the Antarctic expedition led by the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, arrived at the geographic South Pole...

would open up the continent for development and exploitation. Knowledge that these discussions are taking place is propelling Antarctica from its position of benign obscurity into acrimonious international debate...

Accordingly, calls for the abolition of a treaty system which has succeeded beyond the expectations of its authors and which has been sufficiently flexible to adjust to changing international circumstances...

Tories and Alliance

From Mr Neville Sandelson Sir, I regret that Mr Leon Brittan should have displayed a singular lack of sensitivity and understanding...

parties have their internal arguments as to what their correct policies should be and how their objectives can be best achieved. But far more important is the need to establish a broad band of bipartisan agreement...

respectable market economy. Mr Brittan does a positive disservice to the long-term interest of the country, as well as to his own party in the run-up to the election...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Labour's non-nuclear commitment

From Dr P. W. Jowitt Sir, As the Labour Party launches its defence policy, the electorate will be assailed from all sides with conflicting statements of military strategy, cost-effectiveness and morality...

Extra stress in casualty wards

From Mr Stephen Miles and others Sir, The reallocation of funds away from the South-East and various other budget reductions have not unnaturally affected accident and emergency departments...

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 15 1870 This despatch was written shortly after the failure of the grande sortie when the French troops in Paris tried to break the siege of the Prussian army...

THE LATE SORTIES

(continued from The Times of December 10.) (BY BALLOON POST.) (From our special correspondent.) PARIS, Dec. 3. ... By the time I had got to the field the fighting was over; all but a few stragglers were dead, apparently, rather in a sporting spirit than for any practical purpose...

After dinner we started in carriages for the Prussian post, led by Monseigneur Bauer, Archbishop of Syracuse, one of the most active and principal officers of the Ambulances de la Presse. His history and character are so remarkable that you must allow me to say a few words about them. He was for ten years, I am told, in the order of 'Carmes Dechaussés', who claim, conspicuous among other duties and privileges, those of going barefooted and living on bread and water...

Logic of EMS

From Mr J. L. Carr Sir, I find it hard to follow the reasoning behind the Prime Minister's reported belief that membership of the European monetary system would involve higher interest rates. Surely, if exchange rates can move only within narrow limits in the short run, the possible gains from speculation will be restricted...

President at bay

From Dr A. L. Rowse, FBA Sir, All that is wrong with President Reagan is that as constitutional monarch he needs a proper Prime Minister... such as we have. Yours sincerely, A. L. ROWSE, All Souls College, Oxford.

Treasure trove offence

From Mr Robert Key, MP for Salisbury (Conservative) Sir, Dr John Wood and Miss Clare Coysbear, in calling attention (December 6) to the Treasury's intended award of £2,000 to a man convicted of an offence under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979...

Electricity hazard

From Mr Derek J. T. Last Sir, Having arrived home last Sunday evening from a day away I sought something to eat quickly. My daughter's sandwich toaster immediately came to mind. A delicious cheese toasted sandwich came forth. I disconnected the 13-amp plug which burnt my hand, and found the wires loose. About a third of the other plugs in the house had similar faults. We are 50 cycles a second on current now and that has a powerful loosening effect on terminals, with consequent fire risk...

Patent protection

From the President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents Sir, Over the past years, the governmental attitude to intellectual property has been one of general indifference, punctuated by sporadic, short-lived, and often abortive, bursts of activity. The absence from the Queen's Speech of any reference to copyright reform indicates something beyond mere indifference; one can hardly avoid seeing it as the manifestation of a deliberate policy of downgrading intellectual property...

Freedom of choice

From Lady Cox and others Sir, There is one human right in which the Parental Alliance for Choice in Education has a special interest: the right of people to have their children educated in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions. This right is guaranteed under article 2 of protocol no 1 of the European Convention on Human Rights. We recently wrote to all four main political parties asking them if they supported article 2. All but the Labour Party responded affirmatively. Mr Kinnock's party twice refused to give the assurance we sought. We hope your readers will note the strange dissonance between Mr Kinnock's rhetoric on human rights abroad and his party's refusal to undertake to protect this important right here at home.

Parson's pleasure

From Mr David Hope Sir, I enjoyed reading Nicole Swagley's review of 1987 diaries in today's paper (December 6), but was saddened to see that she had omitted what to me is now the only possibility: The Parson's Pocket Book (published by Atkinson's of Rochdale, £5.50 from SPCK shops). A week to a page (and - hooray! - the week begins with Sunday) with a blank leaf opposite for notes etc, tear-off corners, a scarlet page-marker, all the saints' days a good Anglican could possibly require, the Alternative Service Book lectionary (though sadly not the Book of Common Prayer version) and, most delightfully of all, a little real courtesy ('You will oblige by returning to the above address if found') and a real live subjective: 'If this space be used for a record of visits...'

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

BIRTHS
CLAIRFIELD - On December 13, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, a son, Thomas Mark, a son.
COTTOW - On December 11th, to Sam (née Greenwood) and Stephen, a son, Harry George.
DELANEY - On December 11th 1986, at St. Thomas' Hospital, a daughter, Sheila (née Vere Nicoll) and Terence, a daughter, Tatiana Louise.
DESSAIRE - On December 10th, to Carol and William, a son, Charles David, a brother for Thomas.
FRANKLIN - On December 9 1986, in New York, to Beth (née Latham) and Jonathan, a son, James.
GARDNER - On December 13th 1986 at St. Thomas' Hospital, a daughter, Emily and Thelma, a son, Samuel.
GROGAN - On December 12th to Jane (née Luxon) and Roger, a son, James.
HOLLOWAY - On December 11th, in Norwich, to Georgina (née Rous) and Charles, a son.
HUE-FAMU - On December 12th, to Lucy and Mark, a son, Joseph, a brother for Thomas, Matthew and Colin.
MAURER - On December 10th, to Katherine (née Sheldon) and John, a son, Christopher John.
MARTIN - On December 11th, at All Saints' Hospital, Chatham, to Christopher, a son, a brother for David, a daughter, Verity Jane, a sister for Suzanne.
MCCLEAVE - On 3 October to Frances (née Thompson) and Julian, a daughter, Clare Elizabeth.
MURPHY - On December 12 to Jill and Charles, at the Portland Hospital, London W1, a daughter.
DEATHS
COBRIDGE - On 10th December 1986, peacefully, John Theodore Cobridge, M.A., F.R.C.S., F.R.S., husband of the late Winifred Adelaide Cobridge, aged 78 years, at home, to the care of his family. He was born on 10th December 1908. Burial took place at St. Peter's Church, St. Albans, Hertfordshire, on 13th December 1986. Family flowers only, by donation.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

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ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF WORLD PROBLEMS & HUMAN POTENTIAL
Devised and edited by 10,000 world-wide writers and editors...
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OVERSEAS TRAVEL
ITS ALL AT TRAVELERS
Worshipful Master of the Travel Agents Association...
LEGAL NOTICES
SURROGATE COURT OF THE JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF HAMMONTON
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANDREW GARDNER deceased, late of the City of London, in the Regional Municipality of Hamilton, Ontario.

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Lissa Creek on superb sandy beach
with traditional villas and
excellent facilities.

Science report
Channel power cable
repaired on sea-bed
By Beatrice Lacoste
When France and Great Britain found that they had different peak times in electricity consumption, because of the time difference and because of variations in lifestyle, they agreed to exchange electricity. The two countries built an underwater cable link between Sangatte in France and Folkestone in Kent.

Cancer
Together we can beat it.
We found over one-third of all new cases of the disease...
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Portfolio - Gold -

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements on this page...

Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted) ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on December 8. Dealings end on Friday, 5 Contango day December 22. Settlement day January 5.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E are calculated on the middle price

Portfolio - Gold - Daily Dividend £4,000 Claims required for +74 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Price, Change, Dividend, Yield, P/E

Please be sure to take account of any minus signs

Weekly Dividend Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Weekly Total

BRITISH FUNDS

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FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

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OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

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UNDATED

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INDEX-LINKED

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BANKS DISCOUNT

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BREWERIES

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BUILDINGS AND ROADS

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FINANCE AND LAND

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CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

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CINEMAS AND TV

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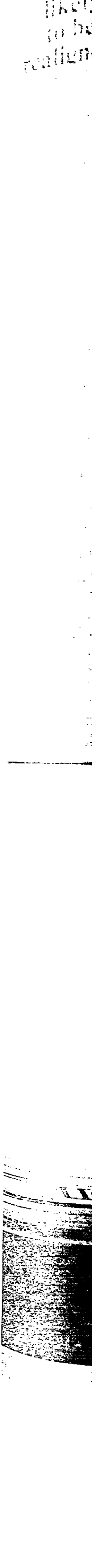
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UPWARDS



RUGBY UNION: NORTH ON VERGE OF DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AS SELECTORS SEE FORWARDS DOMINATE FINAL STAGES OF COMPETITION

Masters of a mediocre morass

By Peter Dixon

Ignore the scoreline, it flatters to deceive. For in almost every sense this is one game which will not trouble the memory bank. With the two sides mustering 13 internationals between them...

By David Hands Rugby Correspondent

Webb's demonstration of English solidity drives on South-West championship was revived last season. They also took the better lineout ball...

Richmond profit from Park failings

By Nicholas Keith

Richmond profit from Park failings. By ending a losing run of three matches Richmond improved their position in third place of the John Smith's Merit table B...

Evans quells Vale upstarts

By Gerald Davies

Evans quells Vale upstarts. Of course, as part of an emerging pattern, Iwan Evans insisted on adding a few quickie scrums...

Barnes fit for South-West

By Michael Stevenson

Barnes fit for South-West. Stuart Barnes will return to the South-West team to play the Midlands at Leicester in the final round of the divisional championship next weekend...



Arch rivals: the impressive Egerton (left) manages to complete his pass as Pinnegar and Rigby advance for beleaguered London (Photograph: Ian Stewart)

Basic belief wins

By Gordon Allan

Basic belief wins. Before their amalgamation with St Helens, Liverpool had beaten Coventry at a Coum Road on Saturday...

A virtuoso display by Laidlaw

By Ian McLachlan

A virtuoso display by Laidlaw. The South of Scotland moved quietly up a gear to comprehensively beat the Anglo Scots 34-3 on a heavy Mansfield Park pitch at Hawick on Saturday...

BASKETBALL

Cut out fouls, Lloyd insists

By Nicholas Harling

Cut out fouls, Lloyd insists. With recent events very much in mind, Dan Lloyd, the Portsmouth coach, could hardly do otherwise than stress the need for his players to stay on court...

Alec's day in close run affair

By Jim Raitton

Alec's day in close run affair. Cambridge University's trials over the Easter Bank at the Tideway on Saturday were impressive and a fitting tribute to their senior treasurer...

ROWING

FIRA open arms to Argentina

From Chris Than Paris

FIRA open arms to Argentina. Argentina were unofficially accepted as members of the 39-nation Federation Internationale de Rugby Amateur...

Jets simply run out of steam

By Robert Kirley

Jets simply run out of steam. The New York Jets took a U-turn in November, ever since they have been rattling down a road that could lead them out of the National Football League...

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Table with multiple columns showing rugby union fixtures, results, and player statistics across various leagues and clubs.

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RACING

Indamelody to initiate treble for Henderson

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Twelve months ago, Nicky Henderson, last season's champion trainer, took three horses to Leicester. Two won and the third was beaten a short head.

Indeed, the recent Hereford winner Mayannor seems likely to pose a greater threat. But now that Indamelody has finally got his act together he should be capable of dealing with today's rivals.

Charlies Cottage, who also belongs to Henderson's mother-in-law Wendy Thorne, can complete a family double by winning the second division of the Christmas Tree Novices' Chase.

Mandavi, the 10-length winner of a handicap hurdle restricted to conditional jockeys at Devon and Exeter, earlier this month, goes unpenalized for the Ivy Handicap Hurdle and will never have a better chance of winning a race of this nature.

As for the rest of the Leicester programme, I consider that Federal Trooper (nap) on these terms.



Dan The Miller (right) leading Backfast Abbey on his way to victory at Doncaster

Bobsline's win fails to convince

By Our Irish Racing Correspondent

Bobsline, starting at the generous odds of 6-4, duly won the Durkan Bros International Punchestown Chase on Saturday, but a winning margin of eight lengths still left one in doubt as to whether the 10-year-old retains the brilliance he showed as a novice when he won both the Arkle Trophy at Leopardstown and Cheltenham.

RACKETS World title regained by graceful Prens

By William Stephens

John Prens regained the world title from William Boone by one of the narrowest margins in the history of the championship when he won a tense and exciting Club on Saturday, Queen's Club on Saturday.

LEICESTER Selections By Mandarin. 12.30 Nabech. 1.00 Federal Trooper. 1.30 INDAMELODY (nap). 2.00 Proud Pilgrim. 2.30 Charlies Cottage. 3.00 Mandavi.

1.30 HOLLY HANDICAP CHASE (€2,540; 3m) (6 runners). 1.41100 INSURE (D) (C Brook) F Winter 8-11-10. Mr C Brooks (9) 54 4-1.

Elsworth planning double assault on King George. By Michael Seely. David Elsworth plans to run both Desert Orchid and Combs Ditch in the King George VI Chase at Kempton Park.

Guide to our in-line racecard. 103 (12) 0-0-0-2 TIMEFORM (CUBBY) Mrs J Riley B Hall 9-10-0. West (4) 88 7-2.

2.0 CHRISTMAS TREE NOVICE CHASE (Div II; €1,326; 2m 4f) (13 runners). 0-0-0-0 ASSID (M) Mrs J Chadwick J Chadwick 7-11-0. J Duggan 12-1.

Leaders over the jumps. TRAINERS. Jockeys. J Fitzgerald 49 18 13. M Pipe 36 17 12. R Dwyer 30 17 17.

1.0 MISTLETOE NOVICE HURDLE (€1,748; 2m) (25 runners). 0-0-1-2 FEDERAL TROOPER (P Bonner) Mrs J Patten 5-11-6. M Patten 88 FS-4.

3.0 IVY HANDICAP HURDLE (€1,175; 2m 4f) (23 runners). 0-0-1-2 MANDAVI (Mrs K Anderson) Henderson 5-11-7. S Smith 88 FS-1.

Saturday's results. Ascot. 12.15 1. Cavendish (11-2); 2. Mandavi (11-8); 3. King's Head (5-4).

Course specialists. TRAINERS. Jockeys. F Winter 11. Runners 30. Per Cent 36.7.

1.15 EBF WOODSIDE STUD NOVICE HURDLE (mares; €1,241; 2m 6f) (17 runners). 2. P030-1 MOLLY CAREW (A Douglas) D Moffat 5-11-6. K Tait 7-7-2.

1.25 BIRGHAM NOVICE HURDLE (€685; 2m) (20 runners). 1.0 BOBBY BURNS (P) Lady Bolton Mrs M Dickinson 5-11-5. G Bradley 88 FS-2.

KELSO Selections By Mandarin. 12.15 Absont. 1.24 Alketa. 1.15 Cobby Castle. 1.45 Silent Valley. 2.15 Bobby Burns. 2.45 Royal Radar.

1.45 LAUDER HANDICAP CHASE (€1,587; 3m) (5 runners). 1.03-0-1 DURHAM EDITOR (C) Dwyer W A Stephenson 8-12-7. R Lamb 88 FS-1.

2.05 Saturday's results. Ascot. 12.15 1. Cavendish (11-2); 2. Mandavi (11-8); 3. King's Head (5-4).

Course specialists. TRAINERS. Jockeys. Mrs M Dickinson 8. Runners 34. Per Cent 17.8.

2.45 ST BOSWELLS HANDICAP CHASE (€1,567; 2m 10y) (7 runners). 1.03-1-4 GOWAN HOUSE (P) J Walker W A Stephenson 7-11-0. R Lamb 88 FS-1.

Towcester. 12.20 1. Developers Run (3-1); 2. Unico (6-2).

12.30 Christmas Conditional Jockeys Selling Hurdle (4-Y-O; €525; 2m) (12 runners). 1.0 SP14 NABECH (D) Roy (Cotton) W Clay 4-11-6. Diana Clay 88 FS-4.

1.0 Mistletoe Novice Hurdle (€1,748; 2m) (25 runners). 0-0-1-2 FEDERAL TROOPER (P Bonner) Mrs J Patten 5-11-6. M Patten 88 FS-4.

1.15 Ebf Woodside Stud Novice Hurdle (mares; €1,241; 2m 6f) (17 runners). 2. P030-1 MOLLY CAREW (A Douglas) D Moffat 5-11-6. K Tait 7-7-2.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES. FOOTBALL. Orient v Brentford (7.45).

